



North Fork of Pound Reservoir Fisheries Management Report 2004



An angler survey was conducted at North Fork of Pound Reservoir from April through June 2003. Anglers were interviewed at the conclusion of their fishing trips and asked a series of questions to collect data on angler effort, species preference, catch, harvest and economic contribution. Survey times (morning versus evening) and sample days were selected by a stratified random method. About 70 percent of samples was collected during the evening period, and thirty percent was collected during morning hours. Six weekend days and four weekdays were sampled each month. Anglers were also surveyed on Memorial Day. A total of 539 anglers were interviewed during the survey period.

An estimated 2,114 anglers fished for a total of 8,270 hours during April, May and June 2003. The average fishing trip lasted 3.91 hours. Fishing pressure increased steadily from April (2,084 angler hours) through May (2,633 hours) to June (3,552 hours).

Most anglers (52.5 percent) fished for black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted). Just over 18 percent of anglers listed bluegills as their target species. Crappie and channel catfish accounted for 15.5 and 13.5 percent of the total fishing effort respectively. Less than one percent of the fishing effort was directed toward walleye.

Overall, anglers caught a fish every 83 minutes. Catch rate increased steadily, from 0.3 fish per hour in April, to 0.91 fish per hour in June. Of course, catch rate varied by species (Table 1) and by month (Figure 1).

An estimated 5,992 fish were landed during the survey period, and only 508 were harvested. This represents a 91.5 percent release ratio. Largemouth bass enjoyed the highest percentage of catch-and-release (97 percent), whereas channel catfish had the lowest (64 percent) (Table 2).

Each angler spent about \$7.14 per fishing trip. An estimated \$15,103 were spent by anglers during the survey period. Bait and tackle represented the largest expenditure (44 percent) followed by gasoline (31 percent) and food and drinks (25 percent). No expenditures were reported for lodging. Most anglers (67 percent) traveled less than 25 miles to fish Pound Lake. Twenty percent of anglers drove between 26 and 50 miles. Only one percent of anglers traveled more than 50 miles. Twelve percent of anglers came from out-of-state.

Relatively few creel surveys have been conducted on Virginia's small impoundments, and Pound Lake is somewhat unique in allowing outboard motor use. Therefore it is difficult to find a comparable angler survey. Future surveys will allow biologists to monitor trends in angler effort, fishing success, species preference and economic contribution at North Fork of Pound Reservoir.

Table 1. Catch rate (fish per hour) for various species as reported during the 2003 angler survey at North Fork of Pound Reservoir.

Species	Catch rate (fish per hour)
Largemouth bass	0.19
Smallmouth bass	0.14
Spotted bass	0.36
Bluegill	1.24
Crappie	0.45
Channel catfish	0.15
Walleye	0.00

Table 2. Estimated catch, harvest, release (in number) and percentage of release for various species as reported during the 2003 angler survey at North Fork of Pound Reservoir.

Species	Number Caught	Number Harvested	Number Released	Percentage Released
Largemouth bass	1197	38	1159	97
Smallmouth bass	102	8	94	92
Spotted bass	215	32	183	85
Bluegill	3560	210	3350	94
White crappie	85	19	66	78
Black crappie	501	112	389	78
Channel catfish	251	90	161	64
Rock bass	83	0	83	100

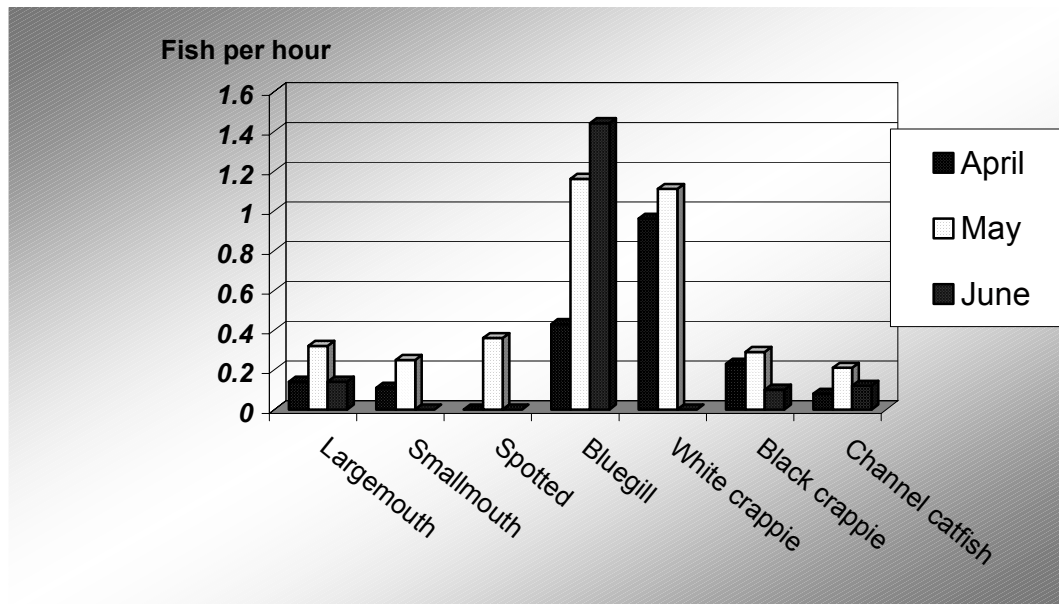


Figure 1. Angler catch rate (fish per hour) for various species by month.

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